

Australian Capital Territory



CATALOGUE NO. 1303.8

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 25 MARCH 1994

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MARCH 1994

MAIN FEATURES

Except for overall unemployment and job vacancies, indicators in this issue show that some sectors of the ACT economy continue to show quite strong growth.

Notable increases have occurred in the following series:

- Trend estimates of retail turnover are showing strong growth relative to the rest of Australia. Over the last four months the monthly increase in the trend estimate has been between 1.1 and 1.3 per cent in the ACT compared with 0.5 and 0.6 per cent for the Australian figures.
- The number of building approvals for new dwelling units increased by 158.5 per cent in January 1994 from the previous month and by 177.3 per cent from January 1993.
- In the December quarter 1993, the annual room occupancy rate for hotels, motels and guest houses rose from 62.3 per cent to 67.3 per cent or 8 percentage points. Takings increased by 6.9 per cent between December 1992 and December 1993 from \$17.1 million to \$18.3 million.
- Trend motor vehicle registrations rose from the previous month with January 1994 showing a 2.0 per cent rise to 1 044. Nationally, trend new

motor vehicle registrations showed growth of 1.4 per cent.

- Trend employment in February 1994 increased only slightly (0.1%) from the previous month but showed quite strong growth (1.8%) from the same period last year.

Other notable movements include:

- The 13.3 per cent increase in the trend number of persons unemployed in February 1994 for the ACT compared very favourably to the national decline of 2.4 per cent. The annual trend unemployment rates for the ACT and Australia also reflect this pattern with an increase of 11.6 percentage points and a decrease of 4.5 percentage points respectively.
- In original terms labour force participation rates in the ACT showed a steady pattern from the previous month with only a slight increase of 0.4 percentage points to 74.5 per cent in February 1994. The total number of persons employed fell in February 1994 by 3.9 per cent to 152 900.
- Job vacancies have also fallen dramatically over the 12 months to November 1993 in the ACT (26.7%) compared with an increase of 30.8 per cent over the same period for Australia.

DALMA JACOBS

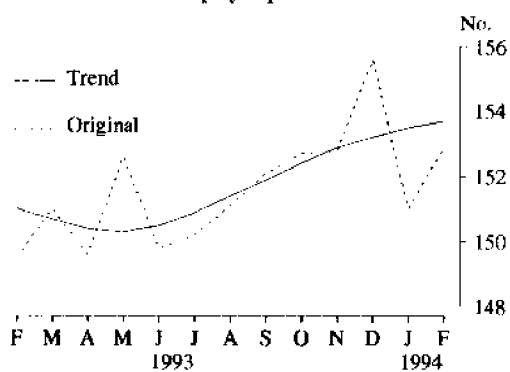
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

INQUIRIES

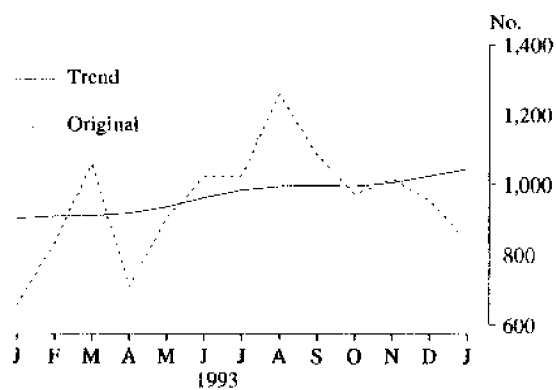
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Emily Hansen on Canberra (06) 207 0105 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

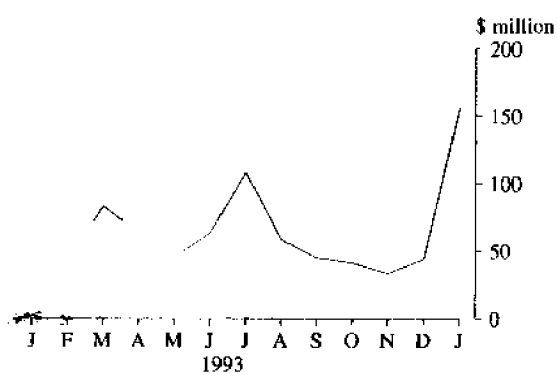
LABOUR FORCE Employed persons



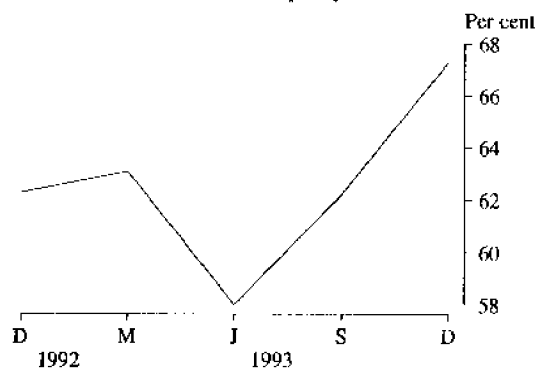
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



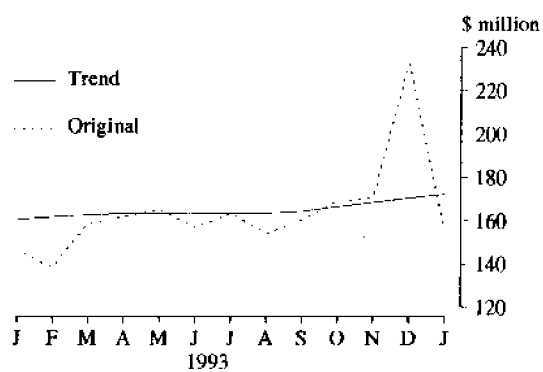
BUILDING APPROVALS



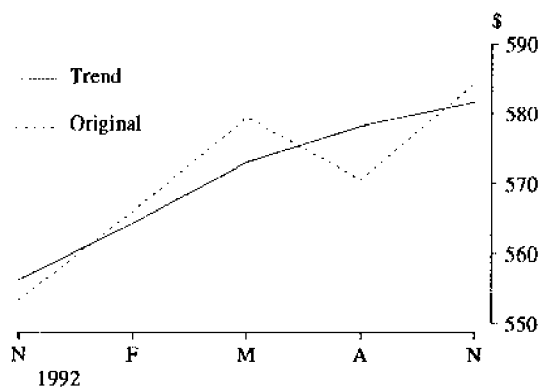
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION Room occupancy rate



TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS



AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,
MARCH QUARTER 1994/DECEMBER QUARTER 1994
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Short-term		
December 1993	1.0	3.6
March 1994	-0.4	-1.4
Medium-term		
September 1994	1.5	2.9
December 1994	2.8	3.1

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MARCH 1994

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
Average weekly earnings, November 93							
Original series							
Males	\$	690.50	3.1	5.4	619.00	0.1	3.3
Females	\$	478.20	1.2	5.3	408.60	-0.2	3.2
Persons	\$	584.40	2.4	5.6	521.50	0.2	3.5
Trend series							
Males	\$	683.10	0.9	3.6	619.70	0.2	3.1
Females	\$	479.60	0.1	5.7	410.60	0.1	2.7
Persons	\$	581.70	0.6	4.6	522.30	0.1	3.0
Building approvals, January 94							
Dwelling units	no.	685	158.5	177.3	12 774	-6.7	6.8
Value of new residential	\$m	53.3	123.9	140.1	1 093.3	-4.5	-10.7
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.7	74.1	51.6	145.2	-13.6	8.0
Value of non-residential	\$m	97.7	471.3	164.1	566.0	-26.2	-18.0
Value of total building	\$m	155.7	257.1	149.5	1 804.5	-13.3	-11.9
Building commencements, September quarter 93							
New houses	no.	606	5.2	-14.3	32 525	6.5	11.4
Value of houses commenced	\$m	65.4	2.0	-8.4	2 915.6	7.4	13.1
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	63.3	-2.6	42.9	1 823.9	-5.2	23.3
Hotels, motels and guest house accommodation, December quarter 93							
Room occupancy rate(a)	%	67.3	8.2	8.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Bed occupancy rate(a)	%	39.4	11.6	2.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings from accommodation	\$'000	18 263	9.9	6.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Housing finance, December 93							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	11.4	-5.0	25.3	696.9	1.8	41.8
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	17.5	4.8	42.3	189.3	-0.3	48.7
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	75.4	3.0	34.4	3 095.1	4.1	38.9
Total new housing commitments	\$m	104.3	2.3	34.8	3 981.3	3.4	39.9
Industrial disputes in progress, November 93							
Working days lost	'000	—	-100.0	-100.0	40.1	-49.6	-93.4
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended September 93)	no.	76.0	—	280.0	112	-45.9	-26.3
Labour force, February 94 p							
Job vacancies (November 93)	'000	1.1	-21.4	-26.7	38.2	-2.1	30.8
Original series							
Employed	'000	152.9	-3.9	-2.4	7 752.1	1.0	2.8
Unemployed	'000	16.1	4.5	10.3	1 006.9	2.7	-3.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	9.5	6.7	6.7	11.5	1.8	-5.7
Participation rate(a)	%	74.5	0.4	-0.5	63.1	1.0	0.8
Trend series							
Employed	'000	153.7	0.1	1.8	7 821.5	0.2	2.6
Unemployed	'000	12.8	0.8	13.3	917.8	-1.0	-2.4
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.7	1.3	11.6	10.5	-0.9	-4.5
Participation rate(a)	%	73.3	-0.1	0.3	63	—	1.0
New motor vehicle registrations, January 94 p							
Motor vehicles (original)	no.	838	-12.3	27.7	36 680	-24.4	8.1
Motor vehicles (trend)	no.	1 044	2.0	3.9	47 558	1.4	6.0
Population, June quarter 93							
Natural increase	'000	298.9	0.2	1.6	17 661.5	0.2	1.0
Net migration	no.	855	-9.9	29.0	35 348	-7.3	11.3
Total increase	no.	-299	-116.0	-167.5	-934	-104.6	-126.8
	no.	556	-80.2	-49.7	34 414	-41.1	-2.4

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MARCH 1994 — *continued*

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
Prices, December quarter 93							
Consumer Price Index, All groups	(1989-90=100.0)	111.3	0.3	2.1	110.0	0.2	1.9
Established house price index	(1989-90=100.0)	133.4	-0.3	0.4	107.4	0.1	2.7
Price index of house building materials	(1985-86=100.0)	150.4	0.1	5.7	151.9	0.2	5.4
Retail turnover, January 94							
Original series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	52.5	-13.2	6.9	2 437.9	-16.3	1.7
Department and general stores	\$m	18.8	-56.7	0.5	738.1	-56.4	-2.2
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	10.1	-18.5	1.0	1 053.2	-19.6	8.6
All other stores	\$m	74.5	-35.9	9.1	3 786.2	-30.2	3.2
Total	\$m	155.9	-32.9	6.7	8 015.4	-29.3	2.9
Trend series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	53.9	1.1	9.1	2 501.7	0.1	4.4
Department and general stores	\$m	22.8	0.9	0.4	893.6	0.6	1.3
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	10.9	-4.4	-1.8	1 034.8	0.3	9.3
All other stores	\$m	84.6	1.8	9.7	4 008.4	0.7	5.1
Total	\$m	172.2	1.1	7.4	8 438.5	0.5	5.0
State accounts, September quarter 93							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 179	-0.5	-2.3	102 157	1.9	2.2
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 830	-6.2	6.5	94 303	-0.8	3.4
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 342	4.8	2.5	63 946	2.7	1.2
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	269	-2.9	1.5	15 369	2.0	9.5
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 212	1.0	1.5	103 433	1.3	3.3
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 871	-0.3	2.2	94 425	0.3	2.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 323	1.3	5.4	63 814	1.0	3.0
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	269	-2.2	-5.2	14 939	-1.1	4.3

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6203.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6403.0, 6408.0, 8501.0, 8635.0, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9301.0, 9303.0.

Figures in the above table are either preliminary, final, or revisions to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: n.a. — not available; p — preliminary data.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

